

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PARIS 05410 041707Z

51

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 INRE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07

PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 CAB-09 COME-00 EB-11

FAA-00 SY-10 USSS-00 SCCT-02 OC-06 CCO-00 NEAE-00

SCA-01 SCSE-00 OPR-02 PER-05 DOTE-00 IO-14 DRC-01

/158 W

----- 109192

O 041740Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7263

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE

AMCONGEN ISTANBUL IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS PARIS 5410

BRUSSELS FOR FAA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRN, FR TU

SUBJECT: CIVAIR: TURKISH AIRLINES CRASH

REF: PARIS 5378, PARIS 5380, 10 FAM 521.6

1. MARCH 3 CRASH OF TURKISH AIRLINES DC-10 (FLIGHT TK918)
OCCURRED AT ABOUT 12:35 PM ONLY MINUTES AFTER TAKE-OFF FROM
ORLY FOR LONDON. THERE WERE NO SURVIVORS. PRESS REPORTS DEATH
TOLL VARIOUSLY AS 344 OR 346,
INCLUDING 12 CREW MEMBERS. (PASSENGER LIST AS RELEASED BY TURKISH
AIRLINES AND CARRIED
BY AP CONTAINS ONLY 327 NAMES, HOWEVER.) PLANE CAME DOWN IN
PINE GROVE IN ERMENONVILLE FOREST ABOUT FORTY KILOMETERS NORTH
OF PARIS, WITH DEBRIS REPORTEDLY CUTTING A SWATH A KILOMETER LONG
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THROUGH THE FOREST. SOME BODIES HAVE BEEN REMOVED FOR POSSIBLE

IDENTIFICATION BUT, ACCORDING PRESS, IDENTIFICATION OF REMAINS WILL BE DIFFICULT IF NOT IMPOSSIBLE IN MANY CASES.

2. PRESS REPORTS THAT THE LARGE NUMBER OF PASSENGERS BOARDING IN PARIS AS RESULT OF CANCELLATION OF BEA FLIGHTS TO LONDON ALL RECEIVED SECURITY SCREENING.

3. AFP REPORTS PART OF FLIGHT RECORDER HAS BEEN RECOVERED. AFP HAS ISSUED DENIAL OF EARLIER REPORT THAT AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL CENTER AT ORLY HAD RECORDED MESSAGE FROM AIRCRAFT IN WHICH SCREAMS WERE ALLEGED TO HAVE BEEN HEARD AT SAME TIME AS SOUNDING OF AN ALARM JUST PRIOR CRASH. INDEED, PILOT SEEMS NOT TO HAVE SIGNALLED ANYTHING OUT OF ORDINARY TO CONTROL TOWER. WEATHER WAS CLEAR AND VISIBILITY EXCELLENT.

4. ACHILLE-FOULD, NEW GOF SECRETARY OF STATE FOR TRANSPORT, TOLD PRESS SHORTLY AFTER CRASH THAT FINDING OF SOME BODIES AND PARTS OF AIRCRAFT ABOUT FIFTEEN KILOMETERS FROM CRASH SITE SUGGESTED AIRCRAFT HAD EXPLODED IN FLIGHT PRIOR TO IMPACT. THIS HAS PROMPTED SOME PRESS SPECULATION OVER WHETHER SABOTAGE MAY NOT HAVE BEEN AT ORIGIN OF DISASTER, AND FRENCH RADIO HAS CARRIED REPORT OF SPECULATION

ALONG THESE SAME LINES FROM TURKISH GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL IN ANKARA. HOWEVER, AFP ON AFTERNOON OF MARCH 4 REPORTS PREFECT OF OISE REGION, WHERE CRASH OCCURRED, AS STATING THAT THERE IS THUS FAR NO INFO PERMITTING CONFIRMATION OR REFUTATION OF THIS THESIS. INDEED, EYEWIT-

NESS REPORTS CARRIED IN PRESS DIFFER, AND ONE EYEWITNESS WHO IS AIR TRAFFIC CONTROLLER AT LE BOURGET FLATLY DENIED TO PRESS THAT AIRCRAFT HAD EXPLODED IN FLIGHT. HE SPOTTED AIRCRAFT AT ABOUT 800 METERS ALTITUDE AND THOUGHT IT WAS HAVING PROBLEMS WITH TAIL STABILIZERS.

ANOTHER EYEWITNESS REPORTED THAT AIRCRAFT CAME DOWN AT SHARP ANGLE AND SHEERED OFFTREETOPS BEFORE EXPLODING A FEW SECONDS LATER AT MOMENT OF IMPACT. LE MONDE IN MARCH 4 ISSUE, HOWEVER, CAPTIONS ITS STORY: "AN EXPLOSION REPORTEDLY PRECEDED THE FALL OF THE TURKISH DC-10."

5. PRESS REPORTS THAT TURKISH AUTHORITIES ARE ON SCENE TO ASSIST FRENCH
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INVESTIGATION IN WHICH US EXPERTS ARE ALSO PARTICIPATING.
STONE

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Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 04 MAR 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974PARIS05410
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
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